NOTES

Genesis Study With Greg Opean 2025

GENESIS 1

- The narrative has earth as its reference point (important for understanding day four)
- Christians disagree on the timescale
- Options:
  - young earth creationism (everything made in past 10,000 years)
  - gap theory (gap before day one)
  - day age theory (the Hebrew word "yom" can mean a long period of time. Also note Genesis 2 speaks of all of creation as a single day)
- There are concerns with all of the creation models. None are perfect
- In the last century, scientists have come in agreement with the Bible that earth has a beginning (no steady state)
- The creation of the animal kingdom is a neglected doctrine in Christianity. Man's first responsibility was to care for the animals and humanity couldn't exist without the help of animals (horses, cattle, dogs, etc.)
  - Nephesh chayah - living beings, both animal and human
  - Neshama chayim - breath of life distinct to humans
- The trinity is evident in Genesis 1
  - Elohim - im as a suffix means a plurality
  - The Spirit of God was present and we are made in the image of God the Son
- God split His image between male and female

GENESIS 2

- We can't imagine what innocence was like
- Was the Garden of Eden intended to be permanent or was the new heavens and new earth always God's intention?
- Eve is Adam's helper against in Hebrew - providing a different perspective
- Adam was made in the wild and placed in the garden. Eve formed in the garden

NOTES

- The battle of the sexes today shows us how far we have come from the Edenic state
- The tree of life reappears in the New Jerusalem
- Not good for man to be alone - through woman, God is creating community for mankind
- God's plan isn't for everyone to marry, but He wants us in community

GENESIS 3

- The serpent is a term used in Revelation for the devil
- Eve was the first legalist (nor shall you touch it), something God never commanded
- Today, Science is trying to give us ways to understand animal languages. Perhaps Adam and Eve naturally had this ability
- When Adam blamed Eve, he was also blaming God for giving him Eve
- v. 15 is the Protoevangelium (proto - before; evangelism) first reference to Christ as Savior
- the seed of the woman may speak of the Virgin Birth
- consequences of the fall:
  - pain in childbirth
  - marital strife and battle of the sexes
  - toil in work (not work itself - God's plan)
  - natural world against man
  - physical death
- v. 22 is a conversation within the Trinity (God the Father to Jesus and the Spirit)

GENESIS 4

- Eve thought Cain was the seed of the woman. Instead he was the first murderer
- Abel was a shepherd and Cain was a farmer - already vocations existed
- Hebrews 11 begins the Hall of Faith with Abel (offering by faith)
- God had already communicated what offering He would accept
- Jesus is THE offering of the flock
- Cain was the first to invent his own religion
- God has always had a way for sinful humans to approach Him

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Cain had the ability to rule over sin
- At the root of Cain's anger: thinking he's the center of the universe (God is at the center)
- Murder starts with anger (Jesus explains this in the Sermon on the Mount)
- We're to keep our hearts like Adam kept the Garden of Eden
- Tragic breakdown in human relationships
- Cain responds with a lie (more sin) and lack of love (disregard for Imago Dei)
- We see in Cain and Abel's story God's omniscience and ultimate justice
- Tragic turning point: Cain's curse by the ground - separated by earth's abundance (a second curse?)
- Cain went out from God's presence (society without God)
- v-14 - who are the other people? Adam and Eve's other kids?
- Cain is paranoid now - another loss of innocence
- v-15 - God's grace and mercy
- no one knows what this mark was
- Nod means "exile"
- Cain emerges as a seperate lineage, city and society apart from God's presence

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Where Did Cain Get His Wife? Possibilities:
- He married a sister (not prohibited by God then)
- God made other humans (but they would also somehow have to be part of the Fall)
- He married another hominid (maybe Neanderthal?)
- Somehow this relates to the Sons of God / daughters of Men topic in Genesis 6

- v-19 - beginning of polygamy - departure from God's original design for marriage
- the fact that one man and one woman has always been the human ideal proves the truth of Genesis
- Cain's line already has music, metalurgy and urbanization (not primitive)
- as humans multiply, sin multiplies
- Seth is the line of Jesus - Eve is finally correct about what line God was referencing
- v-26 - new era - People start to worship God by name (revival)

NOTES

GENESIS 5

Name	Age at Death	Name Meaning
Adam	939	Man of the red earth
Seth	912	Anointed or appointed one
Enosh	905	Mortal or man
Cainan	910	Possessor or acquired
Mahalelel	895	Praise of God
Jared	962	Descending or descent
Enoch	365	Dedicated, trained or disciplined
Methuselah	969	His death shall send (judgment)
Lamech	777	Powerful, wild youth
Noah	950	Rest or comfort

- Chapter 5 is the Godly lineage - calling on the name of the Lord
- This chapter emphasizes death - but with a hidden message of hope
- Theories about the long ages:
  - Surface Reading - earliest human patriarchs lived for centuries due to near perfect genetic makeup. The environment might have been more conducive to longevity. A steady decline in human ages occurs from the flood to David's time.
    - Problem: Lack of massive ages in archaeological human remains
    - Counter-point: There are breakthroughs in genetics (playing with the switches) increasing animal lifespans
    - Counter-point 2: folklore of Mesopotamia, China, etc. suggest long lifespans
  - Symbolic Reading - the numbers are somehow allegorical. The Sumerian context is important. There were exaggerated numbers of kingly reigns (tens of thousands of years) as a way of expressing importance and power. Genesis numbers much more modest. Jesus communicated in hyperbole.
    - Problem: Generally unconvincing
  - Extended family lines - This would be the dynasties being prominent.
    - Problem: ages given at childbirth

The names
message -
the blessed
will bring

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- The names in Genesis 5 seem to contain a message - Man, appointed to mortal sorrow, but the blessed God will come down teaching. His death will bring strong rest (or comfort).

GENESIS 6

- Between Genesis 1 and 6, sin happened. Murder happened. Growing violence happened.
- The intermingling of the sons of God and daughters of men is a major cause of the Flood.
  Possibilities:
    - Sons of God were angelic beings. Most popular view in Judaism and early church
    - Sons of God are Seth's godly line intermarying with Cain's wicked line.
    - Sons of God were powerful men.
- Main point: Humanity's widespread wickedness and departure from God has resulted in God's total cleansing
- 120 years: the length of time between God's pronouncement and the Flood
- Nephilim - Hebrew for "fallen ones" (-im is plural). Came to be translated "giants"
- Were the Nephilim fallen angels or wicked men like dictators? (Rehwinkle suggested the latter)
- How can spiritual beings interbreed with physical beings? (Reference Matt. 22:30). What about after its own kind?
- Compromise view: Maybe demons possessed humans who interbred humans. Note they existed after the flood (Canaanites?)
- v. 5 - why God sent the flood in a nutshell. A state of chaos and darkness we can't fathom (societal reprobation)
- We can't grasp this level of a fallen state the same way we can't grasp innocence under Adam and Eve
- If all Judeo-Christian influence were removed from the world, there would be incredible darkness
- v. 8 - first use of the word "grace" in Scripture
- The whole point of the incarnation is

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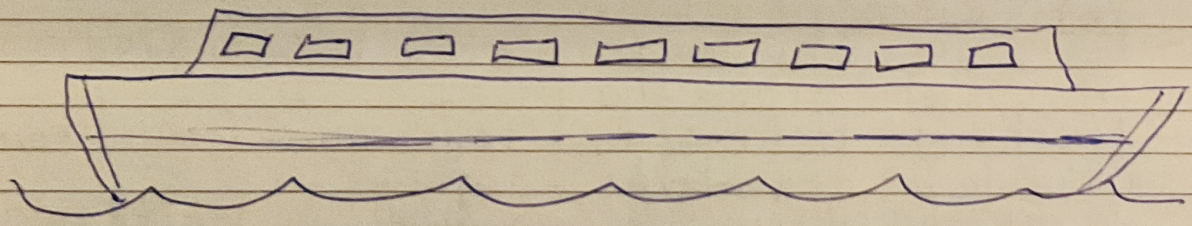
so we will know how God looks at us
- "When we look at Jesus, we look into the eyes of God" - Greg Opean
- "The love of God for us isn't demonstrated in our circumstances but on the cross" - Greg Opean
- "Theology isn't only in our brains but experientally in our souls" - Greg Opean
- Noah was countercultural: the earth was corrupt and filled with violence
- Dimensions of the Ark if a regular cubit was 450 feet long (an NFL field and a half), 75 feet wide, 40+ feet tall, three stories, 550 railroad stock cars. If the Egyptian royal cubit, even bigger
- Length to width ratio is 6:1, same as cargo ships today



- "If God is involved in any equation, nothing is impossible" - Greg Opean
- If the first verse of the Bible is true, nothing is impossible
- Perhaps 2.25 million cubic feet of space
- "after their kind" - not every breed
- v. 20 - the animals came to Noah - miracle

GENESIS 7
- v. 1 - first "in this generation" in the Bible
- v. 2-3 - beginning of clean and unclean animals. Apparently this was understood pre-Moses
- v. 11 - how to date Noah's flood - late autumn
- sources of water:
  - aquifers
  - rain
  - something in the heavens (meteors)

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- v. 16 - Noah didn't shut the door. God did. (Like church in Philadelphia)
- v. 24 - Noah's flood lasted from November to April (an entire winter)
- There is a flood story in almost every single ancient culture
  - The Mesopotamian legend has striking similarities to Genesis account
  - Indigenous cultures around the world have flood myths - sometimes associated with earthquakes
  - Core elements:
    - divine judgment
    - select few are saved
    - renewal of life on earth
  - Difference with the Bible:
    - disconnection from history
- The Ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Not necessarily a particular peak.
- "Our faith isn't based on findings"
  - Greg Opean

GENESIS 8

- "The key to our life is to find the grace in the eyes of the Lord and never lose eye contact"
  - Greg Opean
- The animals on the ark might have all been baby animals?
- v. 1 - a great life verse for anyone named Noah
- a wind would cause evaporation
- there's three times more water under the surface of the earth (crust and mantle) than on the surface
- where did the flood waters recede to? Maybe back under ground
- radical upheaval has happened on this earth
- the Ark rested on Mt. Ararat around April (not necessarily the peak)
- v. 6 - Noah opened the hatch in summertime
- ravens are considered among the most intelligent creatures

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- ravens are scavengers but doves aren't This told Noah the state of the earth
- doves never live above 6,000 feet, while Ararat is over 16,000 feet
- v. 11 means the water had receded to 4,200 feet, since olive trees don't grow above that level - how far waters had receded
- the olive leaf is the symbol of the United Nations for peace because of this story
- v. 13 - in early fall - September
- late November or early December is when Noah left the ark
- v. 17 - God gives the same commission to Noah that He gave to Adam. Like with Jonah, disobedience always ends with the same commissioning
- worship in the Old Testament was like a barbeque and with fresh bread. The pattern of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy is set
- v. 21 - God's grace. Even though.
- the sacrifice of Christ is a sweet smelling aroma to God
- v. 22 - while the earth remains - first inkling of the new earth God will make (also Isaiah and Rev. 21-22)
- the continuity of v. 22 makes it possible for Noah to be fruitful and multiply

GENESIS 9

- God reiterates His command to humanity from the start, but with one difference - the animals have a dread of us now (a connection that existed before has been lost)
- Being over the animals doesn't mean license for tyrannical control or exploitation, but care and stewardship and responsibility
- Revelation 11:18: "God will destroy those who destroy the earth"
- Noah enters a world profoundly changed. New provisions.
  - animals can be used for food (probably people ate meat illicitly before)

NOTES

- The broadening of the diet comes with a restriction (v. 9), repeated in Acts so still for today (Lev. 17:11).
- We are to look at life with reverence (respect)
- It is understood that blood has a crucial rule for mans redemption
- God requires a reckoning for animals that attack humans (animals that attack people can be put down)
- v. 6 speaks of murder with intent, punishable with capital punishment. Does not apply to manslaughter, as noted in the Mosaic law. Difference is intent. This is the bedrock of human government - the sanctity of life (right to life).
- Mankind is to repopulate the earth again

- The real meaning of the rainbow: the promise that the Flood will never happen again. Noah and his family were traumitized, but God wanted to build trust. They were to leave the Ark behind. The rainbow means we can live life with confidence.
- There is a future judgment by fire (a cleansing judgment). This world will be condemned like a dangerous building. John 3:17. We've condemned the earth, but the world can be saved through Jesus.
- Were early cultures afraid of rain, prompting them to live in desert areas like Egypt? Interesting thought.
- Canaan must have been born right after the Flood
- The descendents of Canaan are the Canaanites. Their land given to Israel. Abraham is from Shem (anti-Semitism means anti-Shemitism)
- The Canaanite culture became perverted beyond imagination and was the context of the Mosaic law
- Israel is how salvation would come, hence the judgment on Canaan
- God is accused of genocide because of the judgment on Canaan, but God gave them 400 years (Israel in Egypt) + 40 years (Israel in wilderness)
- The land of Israel became a stage of salvation. "God is intense about bringing salvation to the world" - Greg Opean

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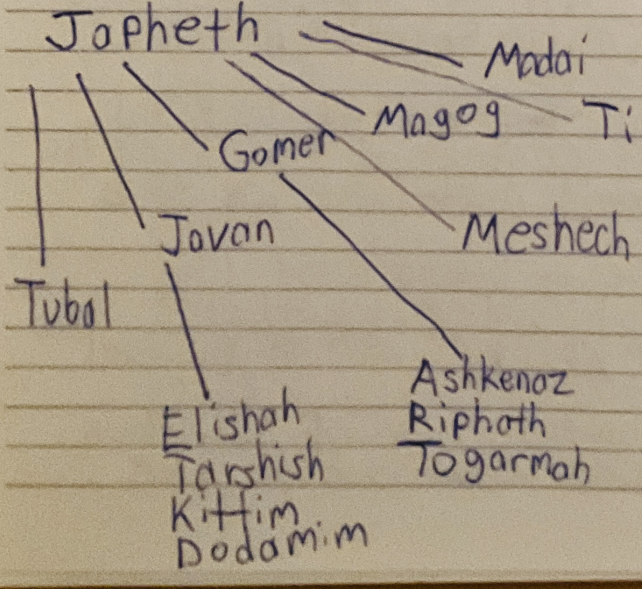
- There are no longer any peoples self-identifying as Canaanites today, but there are many Semites
- Noah's first act post-flood was to worship. Second was to become drunk and naked. God is always honest about its heroes.
- v. 23 - love covers a multitude of sins
- v. 25 - apparently Canaan guilty along with his father Ham. Exact situation unclear.
- Blessing on Japheth and Shem. But greatest blessing on Shem's God (our Lord)
- Simple reading: Ham's sin was a lack of respect. Honor your father and mother.
- Seeing a parent's nakedness would be a breach of honor and respect in ancient cultures
- "Uncovering nakedness" could also be a sexual violation of Noah (rabbinic interpertation). Would have been homosexual and would explain severity of the curse.
- Noah lived three centuries after the flood (same length as our country's history to date)

GENESIS 10

- 70 nations, now expanded into other ethnicities and nationalities
- Everything God does through Israel is for the world
- "Genesis 10 shows us that God sees and knows all peoples and has a heart for all nations" - Greg Opean
- The word Hebrew comes from Eber



- Japheth associated with Europe
- Magog is Russia
- Europe - descendents of Gomer and Javan
- Since 10th century, many Shemites (Jews) migrated to Ashkenaz Jephethite area (hence Ashkenazi Jews)

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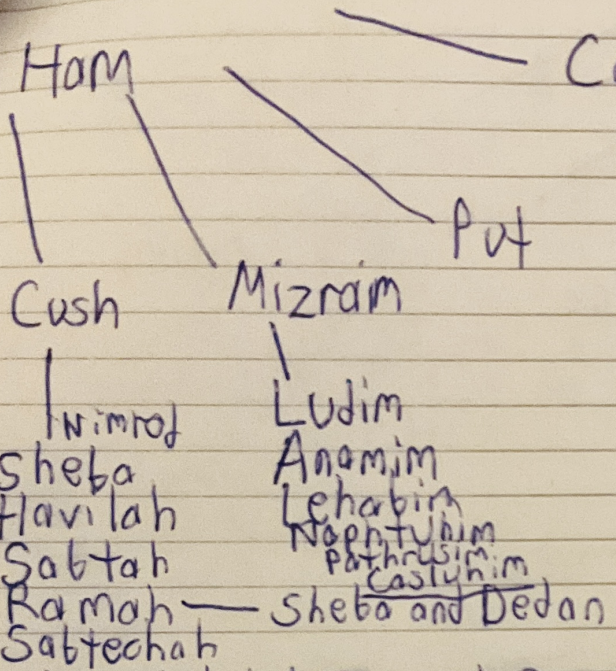

- Cush: Nubia and Ethiopia
- Mizraim: Egypt
- Put: N. Africa
- Canaan: original inhabitants of Israel

- God prohibited Israel from the perversions of the Canaanites
- Mighty hunter - aggressive pursuit of power over people (tyrant)
- Before the Lord - everyone knew of him (first dictator). In defiance of God.
- Nimrod founded Babel, proverbial for rebellion against God, and Nineveh, one of the most violent cities in the world (beginning of terrorism). Site of Mosul, Iraq, where ISIS was headquartered
- Mizraim is an old name for Egypt. The Bible suggests Ham retired in Egypt.
- v. 19 - first mention of Gaza in the Bible
- v. 19 - Sodom and Gomorrah still existed when this was written - very early manuscript
- Anti-Semitism is a spiritual attack on our well being
- Hatred of any race or ethnic group is demonic. God so loved the world.

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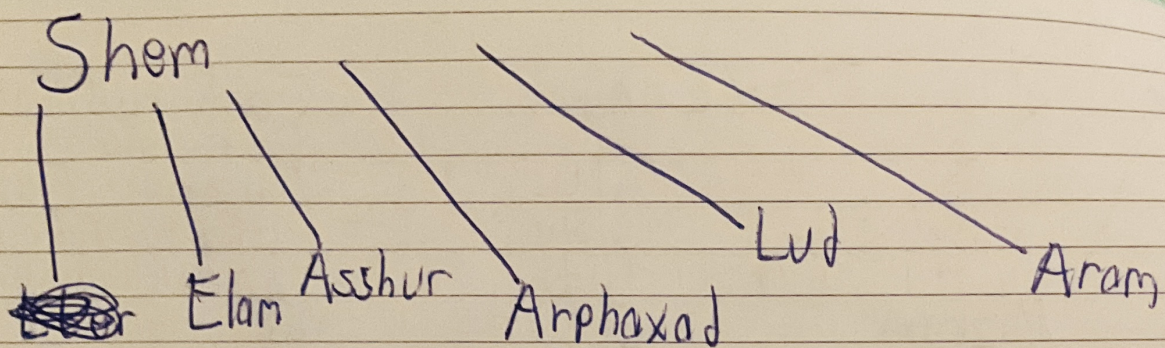

Shelah

Eber
(meaning crossing over)

Peleg

Joktan

Almodad
Sheleph
Hazarmaveth
Jerah
Hadoram
Uzal
Diklah
Obal
Abimael
Sheba
Ophir
Havilah
Jobab

- Division in Peleg's day - either continental drift (minority view) or Tower of Babel (majority view)
- Shem's line is Jesus line, but Ham's line led to hostile nations
- The Shemites were also wicked, but were judged by the Lord and then restored
- Japheth - focus on mental; Shem - focus on spiritual; Ham - focus on physical
- Our Christian faith links back all the way to the beginning
- Who are the Chinese?
  - Sinite - possibly, considering the prefix Sino
  - Shem - likely, because of shared cultural values

GENESIS
- Goes bac
- Our world
- ent

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GENESIS 11

- Goes back in chronology before Genesis 10
- Our world is becoming like Genesis 11:
  - entire world accessible
  - language barriers removed
  - no ethnic distinctions
  - unity against the Lord
- The Plain of Shinar is a floodplain, rich in clay and mud, but no stone or rock or wood
- "Tar" is mentioned, speaking of crude oil reserves
- "ourselves" in verse four - speaks of pride and self will against God's will
- God loves the diversity of nations and cultures
- Babel is Babylon, the city of man. Noted for:
  - oppression
  - exploitation
- The Beast and the False Prophet (political/economic and religious systems) define Babylon
- Herodotus says the Tower of Babel stood in his day
- These towers are known as ziggurats
- V. 6 - God acknowledges the wonders human beings can achieve when we are united (unlike any other creatures)
- V. 7 - Trinity is evident (let us)
- V. 8 - the forced separation of man from each other was more mercy than judgment, slowing down man's designs
- "Man has always used everything we've created for evil and destruction" - Greg Opean
- The similarities:
  - Iraqi ziggurats
  - Egyptian pyramids
  - Aztec temples
  - Towers of Asian cultures
- The Genesis 11 geneology narrows down to the Shemites and then the Jew, narrowing down to Christ
- "God has always been doing Jesus throughout history" - Greg Opean

NOTES

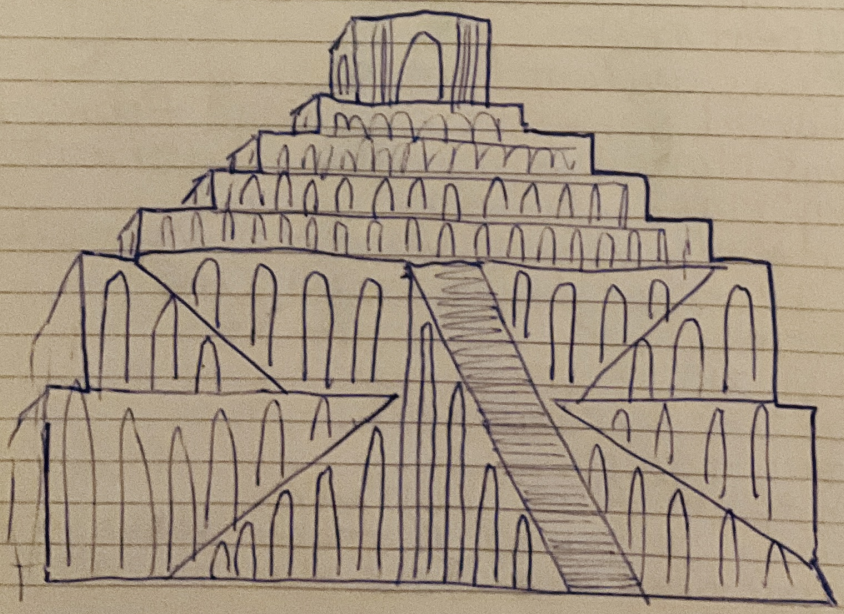
GENES

Morris, Henry

- The question of the long lifespans returns in Genesis 11
- The Shemitic line:
  - Shem 600 years
  - Arphaxad 438 years
  - Shelah 433 years
  - Eber 464 years
  - Peleg 239 years
  - Reu 239 years
  - Serug 230 years
  - Nahor 148 years
  - Terah 205 years
  - Abraham 175 years

Decreasing lifespans suggest that the long ages were literal, since they go down gradually to contemporary levels

- Abraham had two brothers: Nahor and Haran
- v. 28 - Ur of the Chaldeans, oldest city on earth
- Abraham is the father of all who believe - monotheism
- God doesn't focus on Abraham's failures
- Chaldea is Babylonia
- Abrgham's dad never made it to Canaan, but halfway from Ur to the Promised Land



What the tower of Babel may have looked like

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GENESIS RESOURCES

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